

THE TRIBUNE.

SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 30, 1842.

Advertisers will please hand in their advertisements for Monday's paper, before 8 o'clock this evening.

IN WASHINGTON CITY the Tribune may be had at Mr. LUFT'S residence, near Third-street, at 5 cents per copy, and delivered to subscribers at their residence for 50 cents per month, or 12½ cents per week.

We are indebted to Hon. J. B. AVERILL, Hon. C. MORGAN and Hon. A. H. STUART for valuable Public Documents.

For Notices of New Books—The Mayor's Veto, &c., and an Association Article, see First Page.

For Lines upon Letters and The Reign of Terror (continued) see Last Page.

Prospects at Washington.

Private Correspondence of the Editor of The Tribune.

House of Representatives, July 25, 1842.

DEAR SIR.—Mr. Atwood's bill reducing the pay of Members and Officers of the Government, twenty-five per cent, was referred to a Select Committee, and a report may soon be expected. It is probable the bill will pass the House, though I can hardly judge of its fate in the Senate. A reduction might very properly be made.

The bill providing for the contingent expenses of the Government, and those not provided by law, is now under discussion and will soon be passed.

The Treaty in relation to the boundary difficulties will meet with a vigorous opposition in the Senate, and the debate will show how little of sincerity there is in the professions of some who seemed to desire a settlement of our border troubles. The ultra Locos will oppose the Treaty for political purposes. Some of the Southern Senators will oppose it because the British "sliding scale" of Duties on Imported Grain renders the importation from countries as distant as ours morally certain to be made at a loss. When there is a scarcity of Grain, the great operators hold back the supply and crowd up the price; this reduces the duty; when the reduction has reached the desired point, they rush a large quantity from the nearest Foreign ports, when down goes the price and up springs the duty again, shutting the door against further importation; and when the American dealer, tempted by the news of a rise in England, comes along with his Grain, the price has fallen and the duty risen so as to ruin him.

FIRE.—A fire broke out at half-past 9 o'clock last night in the Rotunda, on the corner of Prince and Mercer streets. The fire was confined to the interior of the building, but the valuable paintings of Thebes and Jerusalem were entirely destroyed. The origin of the fire is variously attributed to an explosion of gas, or to the effects of lightning.

Facts for Farmers.

At this moment we are receiving British Manufactures and Foreign Products indiscriminately at a uniform duty of 20 per cent. on the estimated value thereof, which value is to be ascertained (according to a Treasury construction) by deducting the amount of duty from the market value, so that the actual duty levied and collected by us is not over 15 per cent. on the real value of the goods here. At this very time Great Britain virtually prohibits the importation of all American Manufacturers, and taxes our Agricultural staples, as follows: The first column shows the several articles; the second their present market value respectively in New-York; the third the rate per cent. of the duty imposed on them by Great Britain—that duty being in all cases specific and its evasion impossible:

Article	Agricultural Product	Present Value	Amount of British Duty
English Sugar	5 cents per pound	20 per cent	10 per cent
Do. Cotton	20 cents per pound	11 per cent	10 per cent
S. Carolina Rice	4 cents per pound	120 per cent	116 per cent
Do. Cotton	8 cents per pound	8 per cent	7 per cent
Spices from India	20 cents per pound	20 per cent	18 per cent
Cloves	10 cents per pound	60 per cent	54 per cent
Pepper	81 per bushel	74 per bushel	52 per bushel
Barley	50 cents per bushel	74 per bushel	52 per bushel
Oats	30 cents per bushel	100 per bushel	82 per bushel
Potatoes	10 cents per barrel	17 per cent	15 per cent
Hay	10 cents per barrel	80 per cent	72 per cent
Salted Beef	\$1.50 per barrel	65 per cent	57 per cent
Do. Pork	\$7.50 per barrel	55 per cent	49 per cent
Bacon	7 cents per pound	100 per cent	93 per cent
Hams	10 cents per pound	100 per cent	90 per cent
Do. Ham	12 cents per pound	100 per cent	92 per cent
Chese	7 cents per pound	35 per cent	32 per cent
Lard Oil	60 cents per gallon	90 per cent	81 per cent
Castor Oil	140 cents per gallon	90 per cent	86 per cent
Staves	\$10 per thousand	110 per cent	100 per cent

Generally they do not exhibit the full extent of the disparity; for the British "sliding scale" of Duties on Imported Grain renders the importation from countries as distant as ours morally certain to be made at a loss.

When there is a scarcity of Grain, the great operators hold back the supply and crowd up the price; this reduces the duty; when the reduction has reached the desired point, they rush a large quantity from the nearest Foreign ports, when down goes the price and up springs the duty again, shutting the door against further importation; and when the American dealer, tempted by the news of a rise in England, comes along with his Grain, the price has fallen and the duty risen so as to ruin him.

Even this does not exhibit the full extent of the disparity; for the British "sliding scale" of Duties on Imported Grain renders the importation from countries as distant as ours morally certain to be made at a loss. When there is a scarcity of Grain, the great operators hold back the supply and crowd up the price; this reduces the duty; when the reduction has reached the desired point, they rush a large quantity from the nearest Foreign ports, when down goes the price and up springs the duty again, shutting the door against further importation; and when the American dealer, tempted by the news of a rise in England, comes along with his Grain, the price has fallen and the duty risen so as to ruin him.

The Grand Jury, inquiring for our present Court of General Sessions, having found a true bill against the publishers of the Daily Ledger, for their attack on the Junior Editor of the Daily Chronicle, there is of course no trial. This is likely to be one of the most important and extensive investigations that has ever come before our Courts. The extensive circulation of the Ledger, the long, bitter hostility which has existed between the two papers, manifested too frequently in unbecoming personalities; the character of Col. Alexander known as the "Napoleon of the press," from the number of periodicals which he has had under his thumb for the past quarter of a century; and the host of friends which are ranged upon both sides, will make this a moving matter. Political feeling will also have its influence. Notwithstanding the immense popularity of the Ledger it has acquired an enviable notoriety from the manner in which it has always contrived to twist its neutrality upon the Loco-Foco side, and there are many, even among its most constant readers, who would have no objections to seeing its political peridy punished. These are some of the causes which will lead to the unusual excitement I anticipate. But these are all exceeded by the question more strictly at issue. You are of course aware of this being a temperance matter. The Ledger, in all its controversies with its rival, has invariably called it the "Drunkards' Journal," and a few weeks since followed up its attacks by a long "leader," which for bitter invective and harshness was never exceeded in the columns of any newspaper. The positions assumed were perhaps true; it not literally so, they were in a general sense; but it was not probably kept in mind that the "truth" should not be spoken at all times. The charge made against the Chancery was that its Senior Editor had established more "gin palaces" and lured more young men to ruin and death than was perfectly consistent with his duty as a good citizen. The searching expose, from its general as well as individual application, was of a character well calculated to excite the ire of all establishments, hotels, taverns and others, where liquors are sold; so you perceive the Chronicle will have a powerful interest existing on its side of the trial. On the other side, the Ledger will rally to its support the friends of temperance, who number a large army. Take it all together there are the materials for a tremendous explosion; and I shall not be surprised if half the city get to loggerheads in the conflict. Should any thing particularly pungent or racy turn up I will not fail to apprise you, as I must confess it is a matter about which I feel no little interest.

Our Legislature has adjourned; the members pocketing their pay, and going home satisfied, I suppose, with doing nothing. With the exception of abolishing imprisonment for debt, and passing a "stay law" to prevent the Sheriff's selling property for less than two-thirds its value, no measure of general interest or importance has been enacted. The attempt to sell the State Improvements was a failure. Yet the fifteen millions which could have been realized for the canals alone would have materially reduced our "forty million debt"; while the Railroads now so miserably mismanaged and unproductive to the State, would have aided in cutting down the balance. On all hands it is conceded that the State would be better without them with these means of political intrigues and corruption.

The proceedings, authorized to be instituted in the Courts of Montgomery County, against the City, for the mismanagement of Gerard's magnificent legacy, is expected to lead to some important results, but I anticipate no "awful disclosures." The "College for Orphans" has been an unfortunate affair from the outset, but more perhaps from the ambiguity of the famous will itself than from any corruption or fraud in carrying out its provisions. The statement a day or two since in one of your cities, that the College Fund had been wasted down to \$20,000—which that is in fact merely the unexpired balance remaining from last year's annual income, is a pretty fair specimen of the misapprehension which prevails on this subject. There are some interesting facts connected with this great legacy—now attempted to be wrested from the city, which may afford matter for a future communication.

In my daily walks about town there are some things that particularly annoy me and none more so than the long grass which flourishes in some of our streets. It reminds me unpleasantly of the great "Currency tinker" who ten years ago, declared he "did not care if the grass grew in the streets of Philadelphia." This was, you recollect, in reply to the Committee who, in behalf of our citizens, entreated and implored the "indolent Roman" not to persist in the "Experiment," which it was clearly foreseen would bring bankruptcy and ruin in its train. It has often occurred to me that on the grass which indicates the deserted and silent city, some honest Loco might set his scythe to work, "making hay while the sun shineth," snuff one of the mint bags, emptied of its "better currency," and send to the author of our distresses a pillow of such hay. What dreams might not the slumbers upon that pillow awaken! And yet I would not so disturb the repose of even the author of such wide-spread ruin. For after all he was perhaps far less consumable than the insidious lagos who poisoned his honest mind, and turned his stern integrity and Roman firmness to their own base and wicked purposes. And it is not monstrous, Mr. Editor, that one of these same political sages—one of the plain instruments of the kitchen unto that concocted and infused the poison which has worked such havoc, should plant himself down in our midst to preach morality to those of corruption! Yet there stands the "Evening Journal," claiming the approval and support of Philadelphians! The recklessness of this brazen-faced impudence is amazing; it is monstrous! Of this

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